



*News from*  
**SALEM COUNTY**  
Office of Public Information

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**SALEM COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
CITED FOR EXCELLENCE**

(SALEM, NJ)—The New Jersey State Council on the Arts honored the Salem County Cultural and Heritage Commission with a Citation for Excellence at its annual meeting in Trenton on Tuesday, July 26. The Commission was among five county cultural and heritage agencies to receive this award this year. Freeholders and Commissioners will be invited to attend a gathering in Trenton later this year to receive a certificate marking this designation.

“During this year’s review process our peer panel felt that the work and operations of Salem County’s Cultural and Heritage Commission exhibited the highest standards of excellence and deserving of recognition,” said Steven R. Runk, the Council’s Executive Director.

In addition to the citation, the Council approved a grant of \$45,041 to the Commission, a 3.5% increase over last year’s award.

“We are very proud of the work the Commission has accomplished over the past three years,” said Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Commission. “New initiatives and partnerships like Arts in Bloom, Music Around the County and the Young Audiences of New Jersey programs for schools are making a difference in the cultural and economic life of the County.”

Reviewers praised the agency’s progress and especially noted the successful linkage between cultural programming and the growth of tourism in the County.

The Arts Council’s honors coincided with the announcement that the New Jersey Historical Commission had approved a grant of \$14,431 to the Cultural and Heritage Commission representing a 4% increase over last year’s award.

“The Historical Commission’s reviewers commented on what they described as dramatic improvements,” said Freeholder Director Lee Ware. “Like the Arts Panel, they, too, praised our innovative programming and partnerships as well as the growth of heritage tourism here.”



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Both the Arts Council and Historical Commission grants provide funding for the Cultural and Heritage Commission's Arts and History Re-Grant Programs. Organizations, municipalities and schools are eligible to apply for grants funding organizations and projects focusing on the arts and New Jersey history here in Salem County. The Commission is presenting a grantwriting workshop to help potential applicants learn about the application process on Tuesday, August 23, at the Ware Complex, 51 Cheney Rd., Woodstown. The History Grant Workshop begins at 6:30 pm; the Arts Grant Workshop begins at 8 pm. The program is free, but advance registration is requested. Registration and application forms are available by phone or e-mail (856-935-7510 x 8532; [irene.wanner@salemcountynj.com](mailto:irene.wanner@salemcountynj.com)). Proposals will be due at the Cultural and Heritage Commission office, 94 Market St., Salem, by 4 pm on September 30.

"These two grant programs constitute the single largest source of funding dedicated for arts and history organizations and programs in Salem County," noted Freeholder Timberman, "and we encourage potential applicants to take advantage of this opportunity by attending the workshops and submitting applications."